

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 58

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Department of Defense has determined that some military chaplains and other personnel, including contract personnel, hired to perform duties of a military chaplain are not able to perform religious services on military installations during a lapse in appropriations;

Whereas this determination threatens the ability of members of the Armed Services and their families to

exercise their First Amendment rights to worship and participate in religious activities; and

Whereas the Department of the Interior has permitted the performance of First Amendment activities in areas controlled by the National Park Service despite the lapse in appropriations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes that the performance of religious
4 services and the provision of ministry are protected
5 activities under the First Amendment of the United
6 States Constitution;

7 (2) urges and intends that the Secretary of De-
8 fense permit the performance of religious services on
9 property owned or maintained by the Department of
10 Defense, during any lapse in appropriations, in the
11 same manner and to the same extent as such reli-
12 gious services are otherwise available; and

13 (3) urges and intends that the Secretary of De-
14 fense permit military chaplains and other personnel,
15 including contract personnel, hired to perform duties
16 of a military chaplain to perform religious services
17 and ministry, during any lapse in appropriations, in
18 the same manner and to the same extent as such

- 1 chaplains and other personnel are otherwise per-
- 2 mitted to perform religious services and ministry.

Passed the House of Representatives October 5,
2013.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for the continued availability of religious services to members of the Armed Forces and their families during a lapse in appropriations.